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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM • LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO • PLP

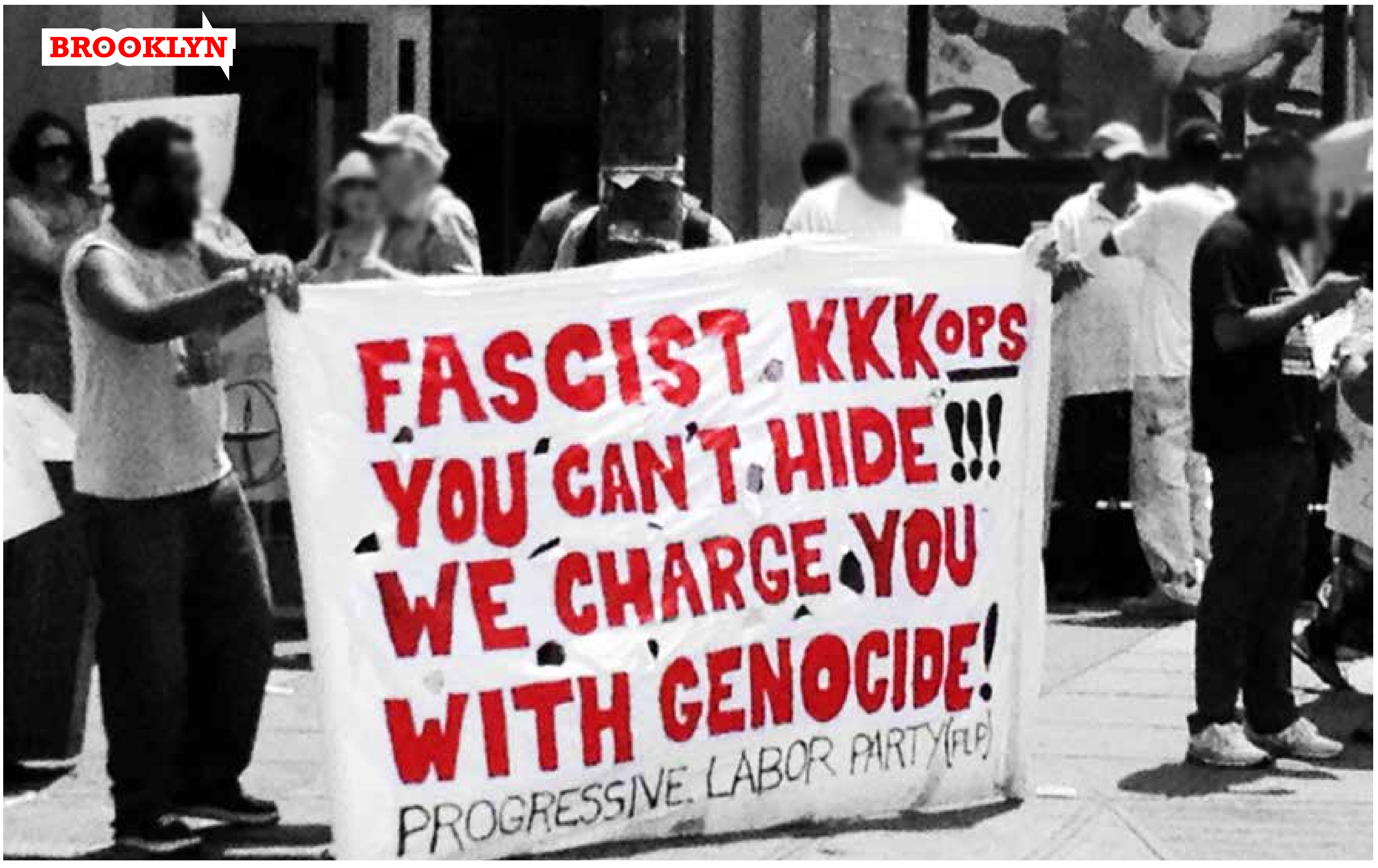
THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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SMASH RACIST TERROR WITH COMMUNISM



OUR FIGHT

❀Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

❀Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

❀Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

❀While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

❀Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

❀Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

❀Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

❀Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

❀Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

❀Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Racist Verdict: Bosses' Weapon for War

Florida vigilante George Zimmerman stalked and murdered unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin. Yet on July 13, a Florida jury found Zimmerman not guilty. Zimmerman was acquitted by a jury of six — and by capitalism. Hypocrite Barack Obama, after saying that Martin resembled his imaginary son, okayed the verdict: The law must be obeyed. Under capitalism, of course, laws are enacted to enforce the bosses' profit system. Obama is the enforcer-in-chief who just recommended NY Police chief Ray Kelly for the Homeland Security post because he did an "Extraordinary Job"

The racist triggerman didn't act as a lone, self-appointed executioner. The admitted cop wannabe followed U.S. rulers' official (if unstated) fascist rules for police: a) Assume that all black and Latino youth are criminals; and b) Shoot to kill.

New York City's killer cops are a leading example of the top-down, systematic terror campaign that Zimmerman mimicked. In a secret recording exposed in March, Deputy Inspector Christopher MacCormack, one of the top cops in the Bronx, told a police officer to stop-and-frisk "black males 14 to 21." On average, the NYPD stops and frisks each and every young black or Latino male two to three times a year. Within the last 18 months, the city's "finest" have shot dead Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis, and Kimani Gray, all young and black, without cause, along with Reynaldo Cuevas, a 20-year-old grocery worker who'd escaped an armed robbery at his store.

These racist killings are hardly restricted to New York. They include Oscar Grant in Oakland, 18-year-old Lamon Khiry Haslip in Riverside, California (who was shot by cops while handcuffed), and Antwoyn Johnson in Chicago.

Racist U.S. Rulers Killing Workers Worldwide

The U.S. spreads racist murder internationally. U.S. corporations like Walmart and Gap thrive off the exploitation and killing of garment workers in Bangladesh. Millions of workers and youth are victims of U.S. imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Drones are just the latest weapons to kill civilian workers indiscriminately.

The outrageous Zimmerman verdict reflects an intensifying racist assault by beleaguered U.S. capitalists upon the entire international working class. The rulers' profit rate is falling because they are losing global market share, mainly to China. Their costly Iraq and Afghanistan invasions aren't paying out the oil and gas windfalls they'd hoped for. As a result, U.S. bosses must shift their problems onto the backs of workers and youth like Trayvon Martin. They do this in three ways:

- Drastically cutting jobs, wages and social services to shore up shrinking capital.
- Suppressing rebellion against these attacks by unleashing racist police terror on the segment hit the hardest, black and Latino youth.
- Misleading white workers to blame their own worsening plight on fellow working-class victims instead of the real capitalist culprits. This division among workers, coupled with a lack of anti-racist fightback, enabled the bosses to cut white and black industrial workers' wages in half. Obama led the charge by imposing these cuts at General Motors after a temporary government takeover and bailout. It became clearer than ever that racism hurts white workers as well.

Stop-and-frisk and police murders are but the latest examples of the racism of U.S. capitalism. The United States and its economic growth were founded on racism, from the genocide that murdered millions of Native Americans, to the enslavement of black workers on the cotton plantations of the South, to the KKK-driven Jim Crow laws that exploited, lynched and otherwise killed masses of black workers after the Civil War.

No Justice under Capitalism

Along with the cops, the courts are an integral part of the bosses' state power. In the Zimmerman case, the judge ruled that racial profiling could not be used as evidence against the racist killer and excluded it from the case. Passing new laws cannot help the working class, since all laws are enacted to protect the profit system at all costs. Nor will electing "better" politicians change things for workers, since they, too, represent the bosses' system and operate within the same framework. The pro-boss union leaders, who defend capitalism and betray workers who break the law to defend their class interests, are no better.

In protesting the Zimmerman acquittal, we must not fall into the trap of making capitalist "justice" our main demand. If a guilty verdict happened to be won against the likes of Zimmerman or any of the countless racist killer cops, the bosses' media would use it to say "the system works." Instead, we must focus on destroying the profit system that uses the phony concept of "race" to manipulate and exploit us.

Only communist revolution can change the conditions facing the working class. Only revolution can smash the bosses' state power and the exploitation of their profit system. Only a revolutionary communist party, like the Progressive Labor Party, can sweep away the bosses and lead the working class into power. Joining and building PLP represents the only meaningful, lasting answer to the bosses' attacks.

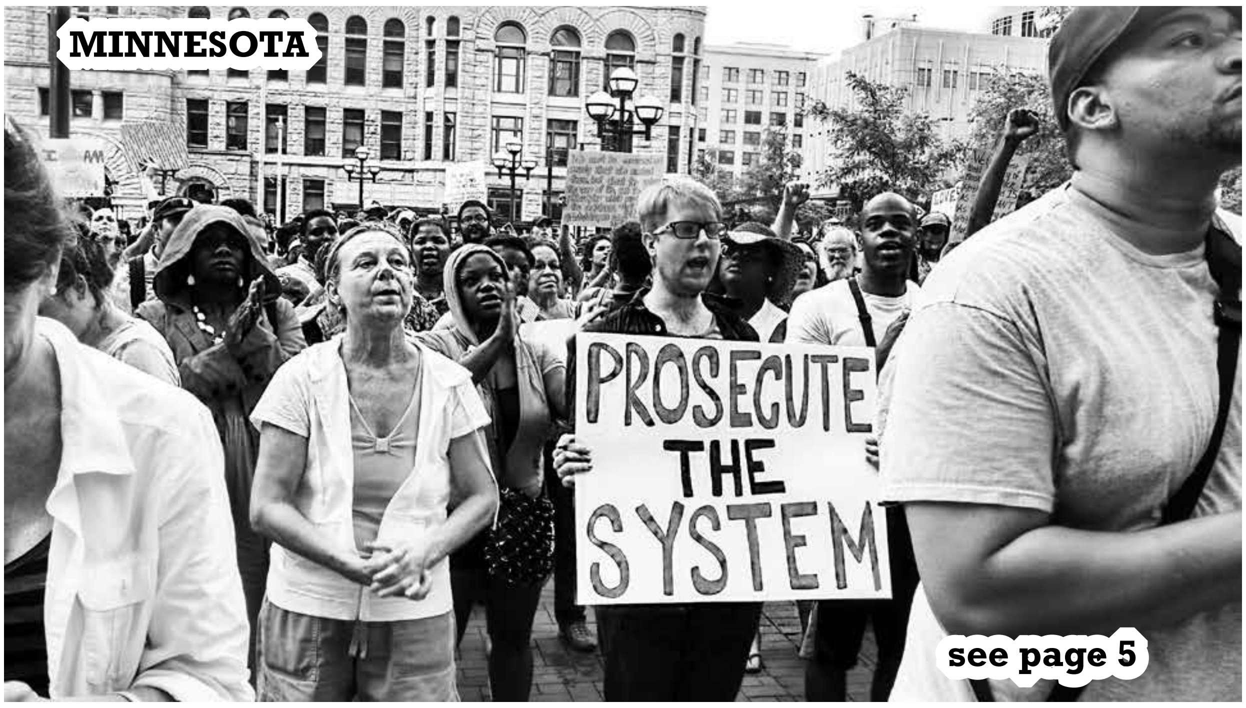
Modern Slavery

The criminalization of the working class, especially blacks and Latinos, has risen as the fortunes of U.S. capitalists have sunk. In 1960, when U.S. imperialism ruled the worldwide roost, U.S. prisons held about 350,000 inmates. Half a century later, with the population barely doubled and violent crime in sharp decline, the prison population has steadily expanded to more than 2.5 million. According to the Center for American Progress (3/12/12):

> *The prison population grew by 700 percent from 1970 to 2005, a rate that is outpacing crime and population rates. The incarceration rates disproportionately impact men of color: 1 in every 15 African American men and 1 in every 36 Hispanic men are incarcerated in comparison to 1 in every 106 white men.*

Seventy percent of inmates in U.S. prison are black and Latino. According to The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Ohio State University law

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Summer Project in the Streets:

Protest Killer KKKops, Retrace Racist U.S. History

NEW YORK CITY, July 13 — "Justice for Shantel Davis! Justice for Kimani Gray!" That's what you'd have heard if you passed by Brooklyn District Attorney (DA) Charles Hynes' office this past week as Progressive Labor Party completed another successful NY Summer Project, an event filled with activism, learning and relaxation the communist way.

For three consecutive days, PL'ers and friends rallied to demand the indictment of the racist kkkops who killed two youths, Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray. It's been over a year since Shantel was murdered by Detective Phillip Atkins and four months since plain-clothes NYPD cops gunned down Kimani Gray.

DA Hynes has allowed these racist killer cops to walk free. By doing so, Hynes has basically told black workers to suck it up and get over it. But we won't follow the scenario they've laid out for us. PLP has worked alongside the bereaved families and will continue the struggle.

While an indictment might be a winning battle — although, of course, that wouldn't guarantee a conviction — there's another struggle that must be carried out as well. At the rallies, PL'ers stressed the need to destroy this capitalist system through communist revolution. Since capitalism cannot exist without racism, it is the backdrop of these grisly racist murders. Eliminating it will prevent them from happening ever again. Capitalism reaps billions in profits from racist pay differentials and uses black unemployment as a threat to white workers' jobs.

Another part of the Summer Project was a guided walking tour of Brooklyn, checking out several stops on the abolitionists' Underground Railroad, the route by which slaves escaped the Southern plantations. The city has targeted two stops for destruction on behalf of real estate developers, wiping them out as historical landmarks. Slavery is a brutal part of U.S. history; it's no wonder the rulers want to obliterate the sites.

One notable stop was Plymouth Church in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. Its first pastor, Henry Ward Beecher, was a major figure in the abolitionist movement. The Church — adjacent to shipping docks — was a key stop in enabling slaves to escape to Canada. An important lesson to learn from the abolitionist movement was its willingness to break the bosses' laws in order to do what was right. Under capitalism, many atrocities are carried out legally against the working class. Resistance from slaves and the abolitionists who aided them played a crucial role in eliminating slavery.

There were some disagreements between PL's ideas and the guide conducting the tour. The latter said that the stained glass windows in the Church sanctuary depicted important moments in history, rather than biblical events. Images included the invention of the printing press; Lincoln presenting the Emancipation Proclamation; Beecher taking a trip to England to campaign against its involvement in the Civil War, and so on.

When asked why there were no depictions of black fighters, the guide said that after the Civil War, the whole country entered a state of amnesia. Furthermore, some white church-goers were not comfortable with black workers, saying there's "a church down the street just for them." As a result congregations were segregated. This clashed with the anti-racist stance the Church had taken before the war.

The tour guide also mentioned an instance when Beecher stomped on John Brown's chains. John Brown was a white abolitionist who organized a raid on a federal armory at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. While federal troops crushed it and executed Brown and his comrades, the raid was one of the crucial elements in provoking the Civil War. Brown believed only violent resistance could overthrow slavery.

When asked why Beecher would stomp on Brown's chains, the tour guide stated that Beecher saw himself in the middle ground in the fight against slavery. He felt John Brown was too radical. But we know Brown was right. It took hundreds of slave revolts and a Civil War to finally end slavery in the U.S.

However, in an attempt to continue it in another form, the rulers in the southern states passed the Black Codes in 1865 and 1866, severely limiting the rights of the newly freed slaves. Then in 1866, the U.S. Congress passed the Reconstruction Acts, placing the southern states under military rule, effectively eliminating the Black Codes. But after the 1877 Tilden-Hayes Compromise, the troops were pulled out and the ruling class in

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Students and teachers protest in front of District Attorney Hynes' office.

Union Hacks Sell Out Transit Strike

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, July 4 — Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) unions — SEIU 1021 and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU 1555) — pulled their picket lines, with personal guidance from International ATU President Larry Hanley. BART workers returned to work with no guarantees (similar to NYC school bus drivers). The Bay Area commute is functioning normally, delivering up to one million workers to the Downtown Business and Finance Corridors of San Francisco. This is one more way the Internationals did the bidding of the corporate powers who demand uninterrupted profits.

Despite limits on the strike set by business unionism, the Bay Area Council (employers' think tank) estimated that the strike cost Bay Area bosses $73 million/day in lost productivity and millions more as workers stayed home instead of going shopping and to restaurants. Productivity means profits under capitalism and business unionism means profit interests comes before workers' needs.

The ATU and the Alameda Labor Councils sabotaged the opportunity for over 4,000 striking BART and AC transit workers to reverse four years of $140 million in concessions! The ATU/SEIU Internationals are firmly in control.

The local union leadership and ATU/SEIU Internationals are junior partners in the Employers' Strike Solidarity Pact:

About 600 ATU workers were pumped up on Sunday, June 30, thinking they'd be joining ATU 1555/SEIU 1021 members on strike the next day;

Then the ATU ordered Local 192 leaders to continue negotiating because AC bosses threw a bone (returning pay for the first day of sick leave). They hadn't negotiated in good faith for three months. With the excuse, "we weren't at impasse," the leaders made AC workers scabs and gave up their biggest bargaining chip;

"We're giving the commute about a C-plus," said John Goodwin, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transit Commission. "If AC Transit hadn't been running," Goodwin said, Monday's commute "would have been one for the record books."

Another suburban system, WestCat, ATU 1605, did not go out even though its contract also expired July 1.

The other unionized mass transit systems serving San Francisco, (SF MUNI, Ferries, SamTrans, Golden Gate,) were used as scab service.

BART contracted non-union bus companies to deliver commuters.

The union leaderships disorganized, un-organized and derailed much of the spontaneous sentiment for solidarity and joint actions. The ATU/SEIU leaders have never united with passengers for a long-term plan that attacks the racist nature of service cuts and fare increases. A large number of workers and riders are black and Latino. The union leaders (including the entire AFL-CIO) won't build class consciousness or educate the working class about the fundamental, irreconcilable conflict between the ruling capitalist class and the working class. Instead they promote legislation, lobbying, "vote-and-hope" Democrats and fear of job actions.

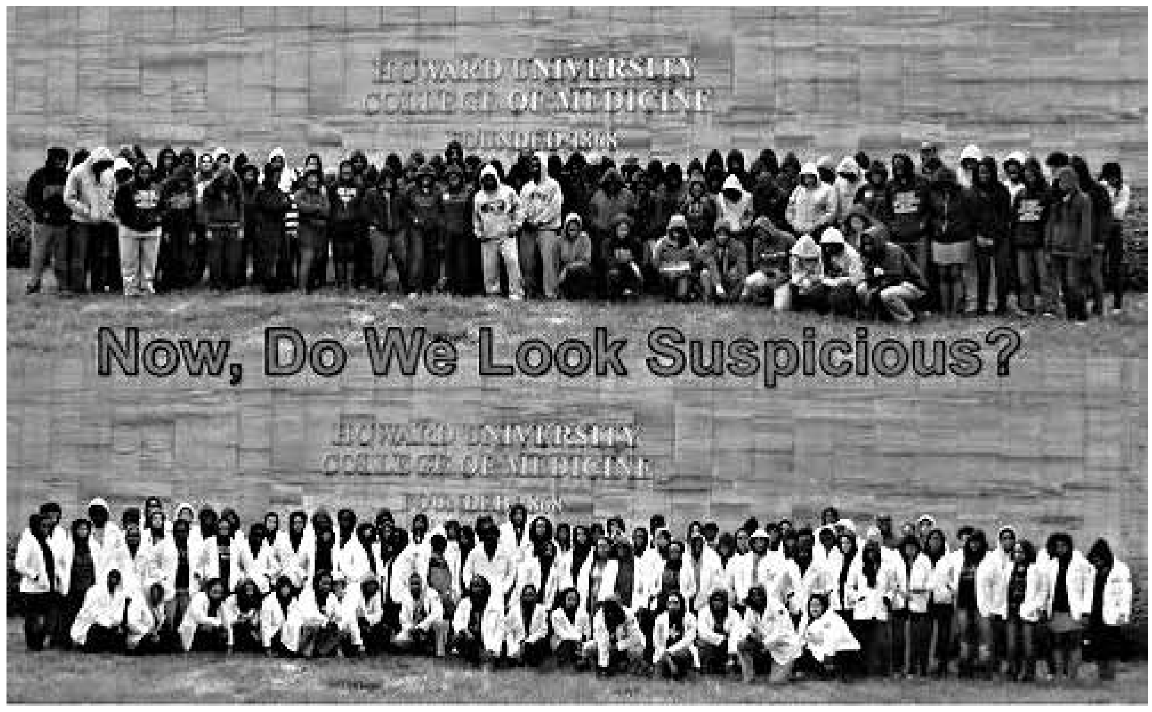
Workers' Solidarity, Class Consciousness Rumbling below the Surface

Many AC Transit workers were "devastated, discouraged and embarrassed" to be used as scabs during the BART strike. "I couldn't look the ATU 1555 strikers in the eyes," said one AC driver. "We should have been on strike with them." At AC and MUNI some workers called in sick, refused to scab and supported the strike. PLP members were the only ones trying to organize ATU workers to unite with other transit workers with a pledge to walk picket lines and not to work overtime. Unfortunately, that sentiment was not organized enough to wrest power from the Internationals.

Many passengers did not take the media bait that BART workers are "overpaid," "greedy" and "selfish" for making low-paid workers miss work. As PLP members organized solidarity, we found some who were class conscious and felt similar to the BART workers because they work to survive (despite BART workers being higher paid). Then others had a class analysis, understanding something about how capitalism works to hurt everyone. The latter were more likely to argue with, or get pissed off at, friends who complained about being "inconvenienced." Sometimes we don't know how far our influence has reached until something comes along to test it.

For some transit workers, the extent of the union leaders' sabotage may have been an eye-opener. Others may think "that's the best we can do." After this experience there certainly is a basis for a rank-and-file transit unity group to grow. The ripples will spread over time if there is an organized, center to keep the ripples going. Struggle for class consciousness and class analysis continues with PLP members and friends in the mix.✪

PLP Leads Fight Against Racist Cop Terror



Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC

BROOKLYN, NY, July 13 — In the thirteen months since the New York Police Department murdered Shantel Davis, an unarmed, 23-year-old black woman, the Progressive Labor Party has brought communist leadership to the fightback by the working-class community here. Today, when the racist U.S. injustice system found Trayvon Martin guilty for being black, our sustained focus on fighting racist police murder allowed us to spread ou politics us in a mass way.

In the Flatbush neighborhood, we have helped build a group called "The Justice for Shantel Davis Committee," which organized a youth basketball tournament at Tilden Park today. Hundreds of mainly black working-class youth showed up, along with some parents. In true pig fashion, the kkkops showed up at the park and demanded that the music be turned off by 4 p.m. But with the support of hundreds of workers behind us, we had the power to push back against the state-imposed limits. We kept the loudspeakers in full use until the tournament ended.

Everyone heard our communist politics as the announcer worked in an analysis of the sexist lyrics in a song played by the deejay. Hundreds of CHALLENGEs were readily accepted by the crowd. All around the park there were conversations about racist police violence and the need for communist revolution.

The Verdict: PL Responds

That night, after we learned that George Zimmerman had been found not guilty of murder of Trayvon Martin, a leaflet was written and a call for a protest in Flatbush was put out. Several comrades who had joined the Party during our recent communist school, along with some young leaders who were trained there, quickly pressed into action. The Party set up CHALLENGE sellers on several corners. Two young black men of Haitian descent brought drums to join the protest.

Once they'd learned about the Zimmerman verdict, an angry, multiracial crowd of mostly young people moved into the streets. As militant communist speeches blared from the loudspeaker and connected racism to capitalism, the anger in the community became a palpable force. PL'ers distributed CHALLENGEs and the leaflet, and made sure to take the names of people interested in helping us. Many not only took the newspaper but agreed with the need for communism, a qualitatively different reaction than usual.

When the Party marched, several community members joined us in stopping traffic as we took over the street. A few members of the mass organization fully participated as well, illustrating the importance of mass work to our Party. As we stopped traffic and chanted about police murder and the need for communist revolution, many drivers beeped their horns and pumped their fists in solidarity.

Pushing the Limits

Leading into the march that began in Union Square in Manhattan, the Party had a bullhorn and quickly took the political lead. "No Justice, No Peace; No Racist Police" ignited the crowd. When a PL' er declared that capitalism can't meet workers' needs, people cheered. When he said we needed a revolution, people cheered. But when he raised the need for *communist* revolution, there was mostly silence from the crowd and anger from the fake-left leaders of the march. This illustrated that many young people understand that capitalism isn't meeting their needs, but they're not yet ready for communism during this period of low level working class consciousness. To negate existing limits, our Party must sharpen its struggle to bring communist politics to the mass struggle and to push for the most left line possible.

The kkkops demanded that we move from the street to the sidewalk. After we continued to march in the street, they slammed a protestor on the hood of a car. But the kkkops were quickly surrounded by other angry protestors, and their target may have gotten away. Whenever the cops attacked one side of the march, we'd run behind them and swarm into the streets.

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Racist Verdict A Weapon for War

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WISCONSIN

professor Michelle Alexander, more black men are behind bars or on parole or probation than were enslaved in 1850.

This racist process has nothing to do with actual crime and punishment. It derives from the ceaseless economic, political and military conflict among imperialist powers. Just after World War II, U.S. capitalists controlled 60 percent of the world's manufacturing. Today, with the U.S. share down to 18 percent, U.S. rulers can't afford to offer working-class people like Trayvon Martin a decent job (or education or health care). Instead, these marginalized workers are stopped, frisked, jailed, and killed. It's no coincidence that the jobless rate for Trayvon Martin's 16 — 19 age group stands at a crippling 44 percent for blacks — and a not-so-rosy 20 percent for whites.

Don't Be Fooled by Bosses' Racist Lies

Even worse, U.S. rulers exploit the inequality they themselves create to divide and weaken us with the phony concept of "race." The Zimmerman verdict encourages white workers to pin capitalist-caused social ills on black workers. It advances the bosses' favorite lie: that jobless, criminal, welfare-dependent black people drain the tax monies paid by white people. The corollary lie is that black workers steal white workers' jobs.

The New York media recently have had a field day with the dubious report of a white man who said he was laid off from Goldman Sachs, Wall Street's richest investment firm. The man, according to the newspapers, stumbled drunk into a restaurant, spied a black couple, and cursed them as "n-----s" who were somehow responsible for his job loss. The black man then punched the white man, sending him to the hospital. Police, of course, arrested the black man, and the unemployed white man became an aggrieved martyr in the tabloids.

Last time we checked, however, neither black nor white workers ran Goldman.

Turn Resistance into Revolution

At some point the racist Zimmerman verdict will come back to haunt U.S. rulers. The capitalists have a long-term need to mobilize the nation for war against their imperialist rivals, but the bosses' racist attacks on workers and freeing of a racist murderer won't inspire patriotism among black workers.

The anti-racist anger our class expressed at the freeing of Zimmerman has the potential to evolve into a bigger movement against racism in the U.S. and worldwide. Racism can only end through smashing capitalism led by Progressive Labor Party. Only its communist politics can arm workers to challenge the bosses' attacks. Only a united, multiracial working class can turn modest advances into outright rebellion against the ruling class. Only a mass revolutionary communist party can effectively mobilize against racist cops, organize political strikes at the point of production, and lead the charge to exterminate capitalism.

The rulers fear the potential power of the international working class to overthrow them. But even as they attempt to use racism to attack us and divide us, rebellions are spreading worldwide. In Egypt, Brazil, Turkey, Greece, Spain and Bangladesh, millions of workers are taking to the streets to oppose the ravages and injustices of capitalism. The Zimmerman verdict sparked major demonstrations of tens of thousands in at least ten cities across the U.S and worldwide.

We must turn such resistance into attacks on capitalism itself, raising the call for communist revolution as the only solution for our class. This can be accomplished only with a mass Progressive Labor Party, containing millions of workers, to lead the working class to that goal. Join us!✪

Outrage over Racist Verdict Sweeps the World

MINNEAPOLIS

MINNEAPOLIS, MN July 17 — The Twin Cities working-class community took the streets to protest not one but two killings of unarmed young black men that racist capitalist oppressors deem “disposable.” We all know about the blatantly racist killing of Trayvon Martin and the equally racist jury freeing killer Zimmerman.

Terrance Franklin was 22 years old and the Minneapolis cops racially profiled him during a traffic stop for DWB (Driving While Black). They said something to him which caused Franklin to panic and run. He was cornered in a house and outside witnesses could hear the fascist cops saying “we got a n----r.”

These two cops ended up shooting each other as they were trying to shoot Franklin and a 3rd cop, SWAT team cop Lucas Peterson shot Franklin twice in the back and three times in the head execution style.

This has outraged Minneapolis workers. Cop Peterson has a notorious history of racist violence toward black workers. Of 13 excessive force complaints, nine were settled by City of Minneapolis for $700,000, the largest against a single cop.

Peterson began harassing black workers when he was a part of the now — disbanded Metro Gang Strike Force. It got so out of control that it was dissolved.

The County Coroner has refused to release Franklin’s body to his family, as if they are trying to hide his injuries. The Minneapolis police are giving multiple versions (lies) about the fatal incident.

During the rally held at Government Plaza in downtown Minneapolis an African immigrant called for black cops, judges, and officials. But black nationalism supports capitalism and only makes blacks the oppressors as in Sanford, Florida, which has a black police chief.

The rally was very multiracial — black, white, asian, latino, Native Americans, and immigrants who all express working-class solidarity. CHALLENGES were distributed and contacts were made.

It is fascist U.S. capitalism that sees black working-class people like Trayvon and Terrance as “worthless.” Capitalism must be smash ed with communist revolution!✪

HARLEM

Figuring that racist murderer George Zimmerman would be acquitted, our multiracial Harlem interfaith coalition was ready to roll when the verdict came in. For several weeks we had planned a sharp and immediate response. On Sunday, the day after the verdict, we wrote a leaflet calling for a vigil that night in solidarity with the family and friends of Trayvon Martin. A church where we have friends gave us space. We distributed150 leaflets at a nationalist rally at the New York State Office Building and posted more leaflets near the church.

The rally was the usual black power-screaming, divisive do-nothing circus. Our multiracial presence was attacked — nearly physically — by several nationalists. Almost everyone else gratefully took our leaflet. Several promised to attend the vigil.

We began at 7:30 with a core of coalition members. By 8:15, twenty-one people we’d never met, most of them black workers, had joined us. We each shared our outrage and heightened fears for the black and Latino young people we know and love. My white sons hung out with their black, Asian, and Latino friends, I said, and risked being gunned down together.

The main theme of discussion was how Trayvon’s unavenged murder will open a much wider wave of fascist terror that will also ensnare white workers and students in a net of oppression and death. Of course, this terror will also shock more workers and students into struggle with us. Near the end of the vigil, the local state senator “dropped in,” nervous about the threat we pose to the capitalist gang he serves.

Everyone ardently thanked us for our initiative. Most gave their contact information and promised to meet with us soon to continue the struggle to re-indict and convict Ramarley Graham’s Killer KKKop and to build widely to bring our message of multiracial struggle against advancing fascism to Washington on August 24, the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s “I have a Dream Speech.”

Fight the good fight!✪



BOSTON



LOS ANGELES



LONDON

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Oaxaca Teachers Fight Racism Reforms

The work of PLP in Oaxaca, Mexico has been consistent in each of the teachers' struggles. Now more teachers are asking for copies of CHALLENGE to read about what comrades are doing internationally.

At the State Teachers' Assembly on July 2 the teachers in the Oaxaca Education Workers Coordinating group agreed to increase the protests in the Federal District.

The main purpose of these demonstrations is to reject structural reforms, such as the Educational Reform, which is now a law in Oaxaca. This law allows the implementation of exams for teachers at all levels, as a requirement to compete for a job or to keep their current positions. This struggle, faced by teachers in Oaxaca and in Mexico as a whole, is similar to those taking place in Chile, Quebec and Spain, where workers are confronting the capitalist system.

The Oaxaca teachers' declare this is not an educational reform but rather an administrative and labor reform. Teachers and students agree that the sole purpose of the ruling class is to push racism and sexism, which is standard practice in this ruling class system.

PLP is increasing efforts in Oaxaca to move workers to better understand the principles of communism, to more comrades closer to the Party and to develop through communist schools. We hope that through class struggle, the working class will speak with one voice: communism.

Education Reds

Crime Does Pay If You're A Killer Cop

Five years ago in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn, an under-cover cop committed cold-blooded murder. The name of the cop who murdered Shem Walker, an Army veteran, was never known. The cop was under cover, sitting on a tenement stoop, next door to a grocery. Shem's mother was an amputee. He would faithfully drive down from Connecticut every Saturday to make sure drug dealers weren't dealing drugs on his mother's stoop.

On that fateful Saturday night, Shem thought that the young man on his stoop was a drug dealer. He asked the under-cover cop to move off his mother's stoop. After the third time asking the under-cover cop to move, and seeing he wouldn't, Mr. Walker took it upon himself, to remove the drug dealer. The cop never showed his shield, but fired at point-blank range into the chest of Mr. Walker, killing him instantly. The killer cop was never brought to justice. We'll never know who this cop was.

Crime does pay, if you're a killer cop under Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes's watch.

Anti-police



PLP Leads Fight Against Racist Cop Terror

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Saving the march from more police violence was a group of legal observers, who threw themselves bodily between the cops and the protestors. Several lawyers rammed their shoulders into the cops as the kkkops surged towards the masses. Outnumbered by the angry, multiracial crowd, the cops could not impose their authority as the march kept pushing through their barricades.

In a touching moment, a middle-aged black woman rolled down her cab window in tears as we swarmed through the traffic at Astor Place. She shouted that she was so happy to see people so angry about Trayvon. A young white male protestor hugged her through the cab window as she said thank you again and again. They were perfect strangers who shared a working-class moment, united in the struggle against racism.

Workers' Power vs. Bosses' Power

In Harlem, hundreds of angry workers and youth gathered in front of the state office building. The rally was led by black nationalists talking about black power (a/k/a black capitalism), but many honest workers were there as well. So was PLP, in force, with CHALLENGEs and leaflets (see page 5). People were hungry for our analysis. When the nationalists tried to denounce us, the crowd ignored them and continued to reach eagerly for our leaflets and our papers. Clearly the working class is craving unity over nationalist/racist division. The nationalists could only look on in frustration, as they have no base in the working class.

Afterwards, about thirty workers gathered in a nearby church to discuss next steps. With emotion and resolve, they discussed the need to channel our rage to build a multiracial movement to unite the working class. Zimmerman's legalized racist crime is creating more working-class fighters ready to battle capitalism to the death — to become the bosses' gravediggers.

The next day, the bosses' media quoted politicians and celebrities urging nonviolence. The state wants to monopolize the use of force against the working class; the rulers want us to be peaceful while they're free to use violence against us. Communists understand that the working class must use violence against the state's agents and apparatus to free ourselves from capitalist exploitation.

In the wake of racist Zimmerman's acquittal, we must be urgent in advancing our politics and building PLP. Although communist revolution is not right around the corner, we must advance our ideas and hasten the red dawn that will end this dark night with communist revolution.✪

Summer Project in the Streets:

continued from page 3

the South passed Jim Crow laws to enforce second class citizenship for black people, which became another form of slavery. These laws became the main target of a future struggle — the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Later in the Summer Project, PL'ers and friends watched "The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975," a collection of recently discovered footage showing the later stage of the Civil Rights Movement as seen by a group of Swedish news reporters. The newer generation was not as patient with non-violent protest against segregation and racist police attacks.

In 1964, the first great black rebellion had occurred, in Harlem, after a NYC cop murdered a black teenager. Black residents marched through the streets, battling the cops. The then young Progressive Labor Movement (PLM), forerunner of the PLP, was very active in that protest. Its newspaper CHALLENGE became the flag of marching rebels. The rulers falsely accused CHALLENGE of fomenting the rebellion.

Other rebellions followed, in Newark, NJ, Detroit, Los Angeles and elsewhere. President Lyndon Johnson was forced to divert deployment of the 82nd Airborne Division from Vietnam to Detroit to put down that uprising.

The Swedish film documented the 1968 Martin Luther King assassination, with urban rebellions erupting nationwide. The police and the National Guard were mobilized to quell them. The U.S. government enacted several Civil Rights Acts in response. Yet the Black Panther Party (BPP) then rose in popularity, standing for armed self-defense and black nationalism which meant black workers must become capitalists in order to be liberated.

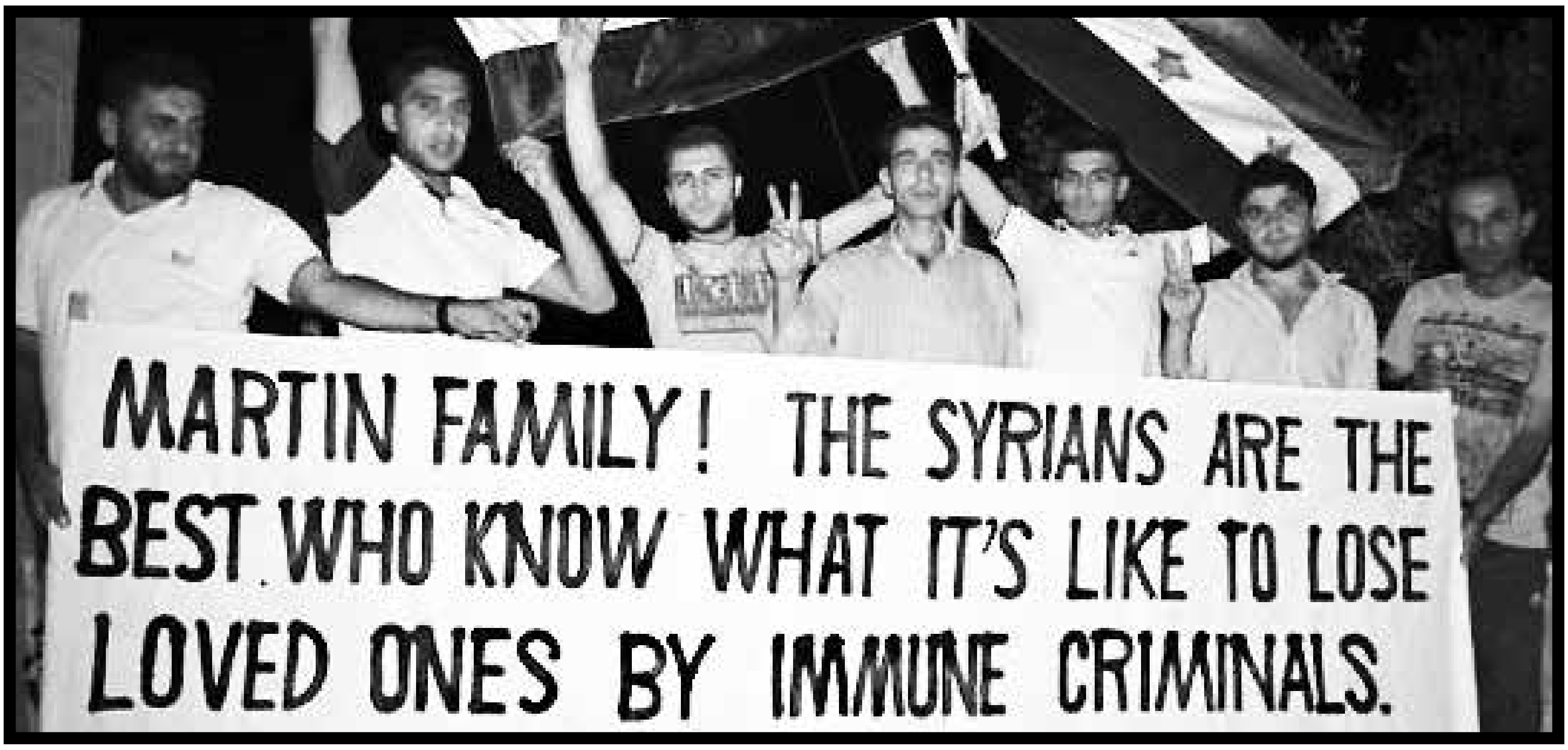
Some Panthers posed a danger to the ruling class in that they stressed that racist capitalism was the real problem for black workers and youth. The Panthers provided free medical care, free breakfasts and schooling and other social welfare programs in black neighborhoods. While the BPP saw the need to include women inside the organization, they routinely relegated them to roles submissive to their male leaders. This led to extreme sexism within the organization that the bosses eventually used to destroy it.

In 2010, Bobby Seale, a founding member of the BPP, stated its objective was to gain "community control and community input into the political institutions that affect our lives." But the bosses will never allow these institutions, such as the courts and police, to be placed under "community control." Their purpose is to protect the ruling class and control the working class.

The movie's final section focused on government introduction of drugs to black war veterans and black communities to try to deter any effective resistance. The havoc they created can still be felt today. It indicates how far the ruling class will go to protect its system of exploitation. The movie's overall message was aimed at attacking the use of violence in the process of struggle. At our study group, we talked about whether the movie was correct. No one agreed and said without black workers' rebellions, schools across the U.S. would have never instituted free lunch programs and more.

The Summer Project ended with a trip to the beach. Building friendly ties among comrades is an important aspect of building for a communist revolution. The Summer Project may be over, but our fight continues. We hope to see you next year!✪

Syria: Lose, Lose, Lose for Workers



Anti-Racist Solidarity, from Kafranbel, Syria to Trayvon Martin

With the rupture among rebels against President Bashar Assad, Syria is now engulfed in a three-way civil war. All three forces represent different imperialist camps. All three offer workers nothing but capitalist terror.

Mass butcher Bashar Assad and his Syrian Army are fronting for Russian and Chinese imperialism, along with Iran's pursuit of regional dominance. The opposition, meanwhile, is a dysfunctional umbrella group of mostly secular nationalists and Islamists. Neither faction has the interests of Syria's working class at heart. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) stands for the interests of U.S. imperialism, while the Islamists represent regional capitalists and transnational jihadists, who in turn are funded by rival, non-royal segments of the Saudi ruling class. After a jihadist recently killed an FSA commander, the two camps fell out. In cities like Aleppo, Assad's military is shooting at the FSA while they are shooting at the Islamists.

These sharpening contradictions could help the U.S. ruling class inject itself more directly into the conflict. With the FSA essentially declaring war on the Islamists, Barack Obama can argue that advanced weapons from the U.S. won't fall into the hands of jihadist terrorists. (The reality on the ground, however, is that rebel brigades swap and sell weapons among themselves, regardless of ideological affinity.) Assad, meanwhile, is seizing the opportunity to reclaim as much territory as possible from the FSA. He is struggling to reclaim the urban production centers while mostly abandoning the undeveloped countryside to the rebels.

Whoever wins will institute fascism of one stripe or another. Assad will butcher the working class in the interests of his imperialist patrons. The FSA will most likely follow the U.S.-led destruction of Iraq and Afghanistan as a blueprint for slaughtering the working class. The transnational jihadists from Pakistan and other countries will keep fighting whatever ruling class gains state power while murdering workers in line with their religious fanaticism.

As the civil war intensifies in Syria, we must keep in mind that there is no possible victory for the working class under any capitalist-backed forces now fighting for state power. Only a communist revolution led by the Progressive Labor Party can win for the working class, in Syria and throughout the world.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Worker anger closes risky factory

NYT, 7/3 — DHAKA, BANGLADESH — Not…two months after the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory [here] claimed more than 1,100 lives, a team of engineers arrived to assess another factory in the center of the capital….to prove that its critical apparel industry was safe.

But…the eight-story factory was partly propped up by….beams and columns…cracked or disintegrating. And the factory was open for business, with more than 1,000 workers producing clothing for a Bangladesh conglomerate whose customers include Walmart and Gap.

"Considering the severity of the building condition it is recommended that the use of the building be discontinued immediately," the two inspectors, professors at the country's top engineering college, concluded in their preliminary assessment report.

Yet last Saturday, nearly two weeks after the inspection, Al-Hamra Garments was still open….

Reports in the Bangladeshi media about cracks in various factories…fueled fear and anger among workers….Hundreds of people demonstrated in the industrial suburb….On Sunday morning, the factory was closed.

Fascist cores: nationalism, religion

"When fascism comes to America it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross." — Sinclair Lewis, 1935

It seems all democracies snoop!

NYT, 7/5 — PARIS. Days after President Francois Hollande sternly told the United States to stop spying on its allies, the newspaper Le Monde disclosed…that France has its own large program of data collection, which sweeps up nearly all the data transmissions, including telephone calls, e-mails and social media activity, that come in and out of France.

Le Monde reported that the General Directorate for External Security does the same kind of data collection as the American National Security Agency and the British GCHQ, but does so without clear legal authority.

The system is run with "complete discretion, at the margins of legality and outside all serious control," the newspaper said, describing it as "a-legal."

Nonetheless, the French data is available to the various police and security agencies of France.

State pension funds: half missing

NYT, 6/28 — Moody's Investors Service, dissatisfied with the way states measure what they owe their retirees, released its own numbers…, showing that the 50 states have, in aggregate, just 48 cents for every dollar in pensions they have promised….

The…report [is] suggesting the states are short by about $980 billion.

Supreme Court's bias aids big biz

NYT, 6/22 — This week the Supreme Court continued its aggressive effort to favor corporations by forcing customers to raise grievances through individual arbitration rather than class action or some other joint legal challenge….

The decision makes it very hard, if not impossible, to stop bad corporate practices, because the potential award for an individual would be too small to justify a suit….

The Supreme Court was…asserting that federal law does not guarantee plaintiffs "an affordable procedural path to the vindication of every claim." By doing so,…the majority turns arbitration from a method of resolving disputes into "a foolproof way of killing valid claims." The decision is one more example of the court's favoring powerful corporations over…individuals.

Fast-food workers' wages stolen

NYT, 6/28 — A study issued last month by Fast Food Forward…found that about 80 percent of employees in the industry in New York City had experienced some form of wage theft in the past year.

Shenita Smith, a mother of three, who works at a KFC in Brooklyn, said that to avoid paying her overtime, the manager would make her clock out even though she was still working….

As fast-food workers struggle to make ends meet, more people are working in the industry in New York City. According to the New York Labor Department, the number of jobs in the fast-food industry in the city has grown by 55 percent since 1999, a rate 19 times greater than the city's overall private sector employment growth….

Several fast-food restaurants and a fast-food parent company [are] suspected of cheating their workers out of wages. The names of the businesses were not disclosed.

Egypt, loving US $$, denies coup

NYT, 7/5 — By all accounts, [Egypt's] generals removed…the president, put him in detention, arrested his allies and suspended the Constitution. Army vehicles and soldiers in riot gear roamed the streets, while jet fighters roared overhead.

But was it a military coup d'état? For the White House and the new Egyptian government, that is the $1.5 billion question.

President Obama's government…was reviewing the implications for American aid to Egypt….Under United States law it has no choice but to cut off financial assistance to the country if it determines…[it was] a military coup. Egyptian officials quickly argued that what happened was not a coup but a popular uprising.

'WWZ': U.S. Manual for World War III



A fearless multitude swarms through the streets of New York City. In Washington, they storm the nation's capital. In Israel, they scale the apartheid walls. This global, multiracial mass of millions grows in strength and number until it confronts the militaries of the world's imperialist powers.

But this is no revolution — it's World War Z's zombie apocalypse.

In other recent apocalyptic films, like "2012" or television's "Doomsday Prophecy," the threat to the capitalist order comes from nature. But in World War Z (adapted from the book by Max Brooks), the destruction stems from a nightmare version of the ultimate threat to the bosses: the international working class.

In the opening scene of World War Z, a normal day is turned upside down as Philadelphia is overrun by zombies. Within hours, society has been reduced to a libertarian's vision of the future: the armed survivalist few gunning down the masses to protect family and private property.

As the film unfolds, Gerry Lane, a United Nations investigator played by Brad Pitt, globetrots in search of a cure to the zombie infection. His family is given safe haven aboard a U.S. Navy vessel in exchange for his service — a recurring theme in what amounts to a two-hour military recruitment ad. As Gerry gears up for a mission to South Korea, he joins a team of Navy Seals for a nighttime attack that recalls Barack Obama's raid to kill Osama bin Laden. The film's PG-13 rating will help expose countless youth to this pro-Navy advertising and try to prime them to sacrifice for the next wave of imperialist wars.

Barely escaping zombification in Korea, Gerry makes his way to Israel. As he travels with an Israeli official, the official gives a stock Zionist account of the Holocaust and Israeli history that justifies Israel's fascist police state and the 30-foot wall that enforces the segregation of humans and zombies. The film's message is clear — in times of crisis, fascism is necessary.

Moments later, a faceless horde scales the wall. The scene evokes images of a Palestinian "invasion" into Israel and of the recent Arab Spring revolts. The Israeli military then unleashes devastating firepower upon the multitude. This slaughter is made palatable to the audience because the millions are presented as dehumanized zombies. But the imagery also romanticizes Israel's real-life apartheid, the legalized system of racist segregation and occupation that separates Palestinians from their land (with real walls) and justifies the ongoing slaughter of Arabs throughout the Middle East by U.S. and Israeli imperialists.

Symbolic of the strong imperialist ties between the U.S. and Israel, an Israeli soldier helps Gerry make his way to a lab and discover a cure. To ward off the zombies and test a potential vaccine, he self-sacrificially injects himself with a deadly virus. Barely alive, he makes his way back to his family. In the final scene, Gerry declares that the war has only just begun.

World War Z is not fundamentally a film about zombies. As author Max Brooks argues, the zombies represent various recent crises — the failed war in Iraq, the 2008 economic collapse, the rise of China — that threaten to paralyze the U.S. capitalist system. The film's actual message? The U.S. is a power in decline, and workers must sacrifice as the bosses struggle to stay atop the imperialist food chain. Workers must give back wages and benefits for the rulers' profits and sacrifice their lives in inter-imperialist wars. As billions of people in WWZ perish in military assaults, the film acclimates the audience to the idea that World War III could some day be a reality. It would have us accept that billions will die in the bosses' ruthless quest for profits.

WWZ's promotional poster depicts a mass of human silhouettes piling toward a helicopter, much like a famous 1975 photo illustrating the "fall" of Saigon. Just as the image of U.S. personnel fleeing Vietnam marked a crisis for U.S. imperialism, the image of zombies overtaking a helicopter in WWZ symbolizes the growing weakness of the U.S. relative to its imperialist rivals.

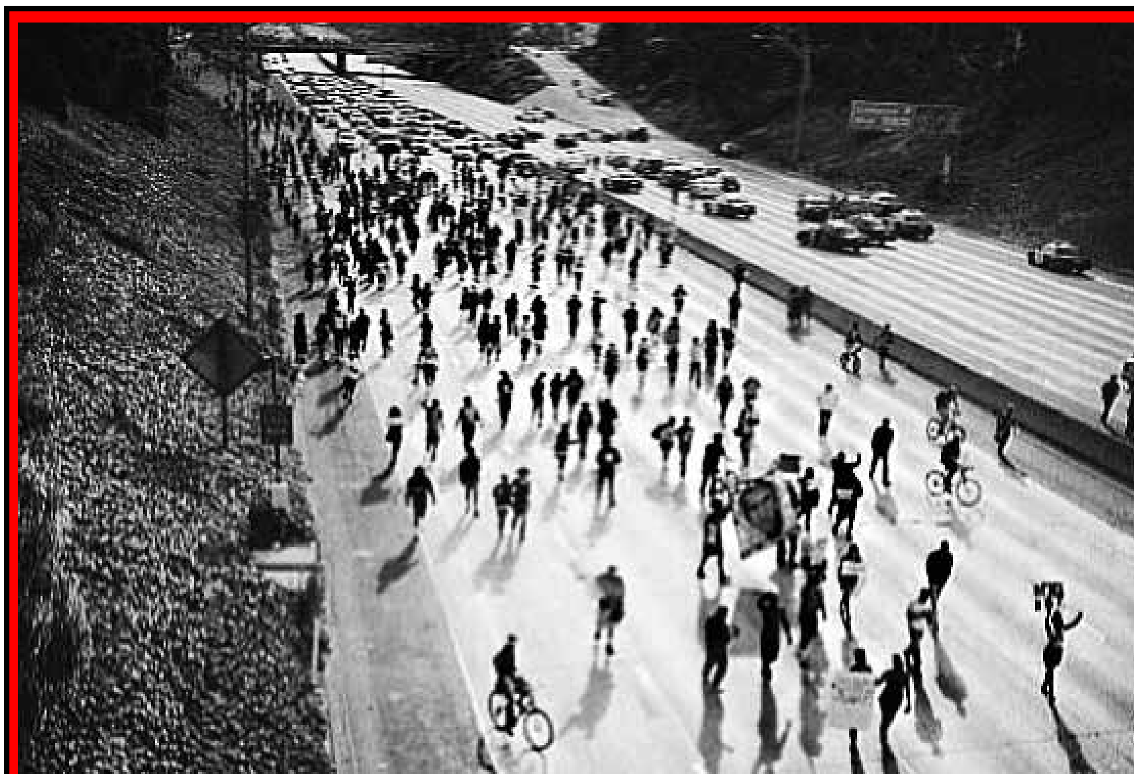
It's no accident Brad Pitt both starred in and produced this film. Pitt and his actress wife, Angelina Jolie, have for years served as a "humanitarian" face for U.S. imperialism's mass murders around the world. In his role as spokesperson for the Not on Our Watch campaign, Pitt has helped give cover for the U.S. dogfight with China over Sudanese oil. This inter-imperialist conflict is the real crisis behind the scenes of mass slaughter in WWZ.

As a UN special envoy, Jolie has played a major role in promoting "humanitarian" war over pipelines in the Balkans and around the world. In 2007, she became a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, U.S. imperialism's premier think tank. Her fortune funds special CFR reports, blueprints for future imperialist interventions.

World War Z reflects a disagreement among key members of the U.S. ruling class over how to deal with the crisis within their empire and the rise of China. Calling for the "restoration" of U.S. imperialism, CFR President Richard Haass argues for the U.S. to rebuild at home and limit "wars of choice" (Iraq, Syria) to prepare for future wars with rivals. But others in the CFR favor different tactics, including U.S. expansion into Syria.

WWZ author Max Brooks has weighed into this debate with frequent lectures, including one to the U.S. Naval War College. Like Haass, he calls for a smarter form of U.S. imperialism. For Brooks, the zombies' power reflects internal weaknesses in U.S. capitalism. He leads his audience to see education and healthcare as national security issues.

Far more than a mere horror movie, WWZ is a major work of U.S. imperialist propaganda. The working class must defy these dehumanizing images of itself by joining the Progressive Labor Party and building a communist class-consciousness. One day millions will storm Wall Street and Washington and topple the apartheid walls in Israel. But it won't be a zombie apocalypse — it will be a communist revolution!✪



LOS ANGELES — Protesters, enraged with Zimmerman's verdict, take over highway.